

teen years in terror of the law's vengeance.

Stripling, the "lifer," whose story so closely parallels the story of Hugo's "Jean Valjean," will soon take his place again among free men and he'll owe his freedom to his little daughter, Bessie Lucille, who interceded with Gov. Nat E. Harris for her father's liberty.

Bessie Lucille, the convict's daughter, has heard more about prisons than she has about dolls and little girls' playthings since her father was arrested three years ago and sent back to prison for a crime committed many years before Bessie Lucille was born. Like a good little girl she waited—just as daddy told her to—for him to come back and "play bear" or tell her stories. She was very lonesome for her daddy. One day her mother took her to visit him in the state prison. It was the day that Georgia's new governor was inspecting the penitentiary.

The governor was engaged in talking to a committee of officials in the prison lobby when a sad-eyed woman and a shabby little girl passed by. No one noticed the little girl slip away from her mother and run up to the big, broad-shouldered governor, put her little fingers in his, lift a smiling face and eyes filled with tears up to him and lisn—"Please, Mr. Governor, let my daddy come home with me; I wants him."

"Who are you, child?" asked the governor.

"I'm just Bessie Stripling, my daddy's in prison, and I want him to come home with me."

A tense moment passed. The war veteran who governs Georgia is kind-hearted—Bessie's eyes pleaded tenderly. The governor thought deeply for a few seconds. Then came the determined answer: "Run along lassie, I'll send your daddy home soon."

Stripling's pardon will be officially confirmed in about two weeks.

The Georgia prisoner, whose case

has attracted attention the country over, was sentenced to prison 18 years ago, charged with the murder of "Bill" Cornett. The crime was committed to satisfy the "unwritten law."

Stripling left a wife and two children behind him to live on charity or die without it. Their destitution made him desperate. After a year in prison he escaped. With his family he located at Danville, Va., and under the name of Morris soon became one of the most respected citizens in the community. For several years he was Danville's chief of police. But "murder will out." After 15 years of liberty and right living "Morris" was recognized as a fugitive and returned to prison to serve out his life sentence.

The savings of 15 years were spent on lawyers' fees. His family was again destitute. Influential friends sought his release, but the law demanded vengeance. Justice demanded its "pound of flesh."

Stripling's case had been given up as hopeless when his baby daughter twined her fingers into the fingers of Georgia's governor and asked him to "send daddy home."

There were two children in the Stripling family when "Bill" Cornett was murdered. When he was sent back to prison three years ago Stripling left 12 children behind. His family is now in dire poverty, his own health is broken, but the spirit of Georgia's Jean Valjean is brave and unflinching.

"Give me another chance," he asks, "and I'll square myself with the world—I'll be worthy of the devotion of my family and friends."

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The little fly net of white tulle, hemmed loosely with baby ribbon, makes a very dainty crib cover. When new the net is so stiff that it can be pulled up into a "tent" about the baby, which is an advantage over mosquito netting, which falls into the baby's face.